



Branch Update

Vol. 20, No. 3

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Introduction

This final edition of the **Branch Update** for 2006-07 will provide you with reminders and information regarding regular year-end branch duties such as:

- Electing the new branch executive,
- Auditing of branch financial records,
- Holding the branch annual meeting, and
- Completing the Preliminary Branch Registration Form for 2007-08.

To those of you who are retiring from branch service or retiring from the teaching profession, thank you for participating in the work of your Association during your tenure as branch officers. I wish you well as you either move to another phase of your teaching career or as you start a new life as a "retired teacher".

Thank you all for your involvement within your branch this past year. Best wishes for the remainder of this school year.

Geralyn Costello
Assistant to the President

Joint Council Meetings 2007-08 (Preliminary Notice)

The two regularly scheduled Joint Council meetings for 2007-08 will take place on Friday (all day) and Saturday, November 2 and 3, 2007 and on Friday (all day) and Saturday, March 28 and 29, 2008.

2007 Biennial General Meeting

➤ Provincial Executive for 2007-09

Ten new Executive members were elected at the 2007 BGM and they, along with the new President and Vice-President (who were elected by province-wide vote in February), will form your Provincial Executive for 2007-09. They will officially begin their duties as of August 1, 2007. Current NLTA President Kevin Foley will be retiring from teaching upon the completion of his Presidential term of office and will, therefore, not be a take up his position as Past-President on the 2007-09 Executive.

➤ By-Law Changes

Delegates to BGM approved several by-law changes regarding voting status for special interest councils at BGM, province-wide election of President and Vice-President and membership standards and discipline. See the June edition of *the Bulletin* for details regarding the wording of these by-law changes.

➤ BGM Resolutions

A summary of the outcome of each resolution from the 2007 BGM has been prepared and will be published in the June edition of *The Bulletin*. In addition, all those resolutions which were carried or referred by BGM have now been passed on to Executive standing committees for their consideration and action. A report on the actioning of all such resolutions will be prepared for the next Convention.

➤ Branch Viability Guidelines/Profile

During the past two years, Provincial Executive, through the committee responsible for branch operations, and in consultation with Joint Council and all branches, completed a review of branch structure and operations. BGM 2007 subsequently approved changes to the policy on branches which include the implementation of the Branch Viability Guidelines. This new procedure will require each branch to complete and submit to the NLTA head office, prior to the end of each school year in which the Association's BGM is held, a *branch viability profile*. Further information regarding the completion of this profile will be forwarded to branches under separate cover.

Branch Elections

May is branch elections month and, in accordance with NLTA policy, the second week of May is set aside for branch elections. While it is not required that the election occur precisely in that week, it is recommended that branches have the branch executive for the upcoming school year elected by late May or early June so that the new executive is in place before the beginning of the next school year. If your branch is not able to fill all executive positions at this time, at least the core of the branch executive should be elected so that some continuity is established. (See pages 50-52 of the *Branch Operations Manual* for information and advice on running branch elections.)

Branch Audit – A Note for Treasurers

The policy on branch finances states that branch accounts are to be audited at the end of each branch year by at least two members of the branch other than branch executive officers. To facilitate the auditing process, the branch treasurer is asked to complete the audit form and submit it to the branch auditors along with the branch financial records for the year.

Please note when completing your audits that there should be no time lag between the end of

one financial year and the beginning of the next. That is, if the "books" are closed on June 22 (for example) and the year-end audit completed, then the new financial year starts on June 23. Any bills paid or funds received over the summer would then become part of the records for the new financial year. Conversely, the financial year could end in early September, in which case the summer period would be part of the previous financial year. Under no circumstances should any funds be disbursed or received without being properly accounted for in the branch's financial records and year-end audit.

The completed audit form should be forwarded to the NLTA Office as soon as possible at the end of the branch financial year. Audit forms to be completed for this year will be forwarded directly to branch treasurers under separate cover.

We are in the process of putting the Branch Audit form online at the NLTA website. Initially you will be able to print the form from a pdf file, but we hope to eventually have it included in our "Forms Online" section so that it can be completed online. I will advise treasurers once the online form is available.

Branch Registration Forms

➡ Preliminary Branch Registration Form

This form, which is being forwarded to current branch presidents under separate cover, should be completed and forwarded to the NLTA Office as soon as the branch election takes place, but in any case no later than the last day of the school year (June 22). The form is an important first step in registering your branch for 2007-08. Two hundred dollars of the branch registration rebate of \$520 will be forwarded to your branch in early September if this form has been received at the NLTA office. Please note that if your branch executive will be completing the second year of a two-year term next year and there are no changes in the executive from the previous year, the preliminary registration form does not have to be completed. However, please contact me at the NLTA Office to inform me of this so that your \$200 can be sent to you in September.

➡ Official Branch Registration Form

The official registration form should be completed in September and forwarded to the NLTA Office as soon as the number of teachers in each school and board office within the branch boundaries is known. This form will be forwarded to the branch president in September.

As with the Audit Form, we will also be placing the Branch Preliminary and Official Registration forms online at the NLTA website.

Transfer of Office

If various positions on your branch executive are turned over to newly elected executive members, please ensure that branch files, records, documents and financial records are handed over as soon as possible after the election. In this way, the new executive will have taken over responsibility for the branch records before the beginning of the next school year.

Past President's Pins

A past president's pin will be provided automatically by the NLTA Office after a branch president completes his/her term of office. After all branch registrations have been received, these pins will be ordered in the fall for all branch presidents who have completed a term of office at the end of 2006-07 and forwarded to the branch for presentation.

Retirement Scrolls and Pins

Please ensure that a suitable occasion is arranged for presentation of the retirement scrolls and pins for teachers in your branch who are retiring during this school year. Scrolls should be ordered well in advance of the date you will require them. The form to use when requesting retirement scrolls and pins is located in the FORMS section of your Branch Operations Manual.

Please also ensure that you include in the list of retiring teachers any substitute teachers who may be planning to retire this year and also include them in any branch function honouring retiring teachers.

A REMINDER TO TREASURERS: Upon proof of expenditure, the Association will reimburse your branch up to \$23 per retiree and retiree's guest for the cost of meals provided at your retirement banquet. See the Branch Operations Manual for the appropriate reimbursement forms.

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A Closing Thought . . .

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time. (Sir John Lubbock, English banker, politician, naturalist and archaeologist)

Branch Update is published three times a year by the Branch Operations Office of the NLTA. For further information on any items dealt with in this publication, please contact:

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